



CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

Education Committee.

Annual Report

OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

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OF EXETER, 1926.



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SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF.

School Medical Officer.

PERCY H. STIRK, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Lond.

School Medical Inspector.

CHARLES MATHEW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A.

Part Time.

J. A. W. PEREIRA GRAY, M.D., Brux., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Lond.,

Operative treatment for Tonsils and Adenoids.

School Dental Surgeon.

GEORGE VALENTINE SMALLWOOD, L.D.S., Eng.

School Nurses.

MISS CAROLINE ANNIE KNUCKEY.

MISS HILDA MARGARET PAIN, resigned on 8th June, 1926.

MISS BEATRICE MARY KNUCKEY.

MISS MAUD BLACK, resigned on 14th June, 1926.

MISS SUSAN LOUISA DAWKINS.

MISS MAUD WALTERS, joined on 12th July, 1926.

MISS FRANCES ENA WARD, joined on 27th July, 1926.

Clerk.

CHAS. F. HAYES.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF THE CITY
OF EXETER, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee.

I have the honour to submit my Report upon the Medical Inspection of School Children for the year 1926.

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

The arrangements and methods adopted for the Medical Inspection of the children have been in all respects similar to those described in previous Reports. The children examined include the Entrants, Leavers, and Intermediate Group (aged 8), other Routine, Special Cases, and Re-inspection of Defective Children, the numbers examined being set forth on Table I.

Secondary and Junior Technical Schools.

The particulars of the School Medical Inspection of two Secondary Schools and Junior Technical School appears at the end of this Report.

Following Up.

For this purpose the City is divided into convenient areas, each School Nurse having charge of her own District, and during the year the School Nurses made 3,224 home visits in this connection.

Open Air Schools.

At present we have no Open Air Schools, although in suitable weather school playgrounds are largely used for the holding of classes. I consider that a day open air school would be one of the most useful aids we could have for the prevention of disease, and would improve the physical and mental health of many of the children.

See Table III., Page 15.—115 delicate children are attending the Public Elementary Schools, who would doubtless do much better in an Open Air School.

Special Enquiry.

The Assistant School Medical Officer and myself have continued this inquiry into the association of physical defects with backwardness in school children, and from Table V. it will be observed that of 786 children classified as backward, that is to say three standards below that of normal children, no less than 67.1 per cent. were found to be suffering from physical defects which, in our opinion, is sufficient to account for their backwardness.

Staff.

Particulars of the Staff are given Page 3.

CO-ORDINATION.

As the School Medical Officer, who is also Medical Officer of Health, is engaged in clinical as well as administrative duties, there is no difficulty in co-ordinating the work of the different Departments.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

(a) Uncleanliness (see Table IV., Group IV.)

I have to report a steady improvement in the condition of children attending the Elementary Schools in the matter of cleanliness. This has been continuous since the institution of

school medical work. At present the School Nurses make visits to the schools, particularly during the week following re-opening after holidays. During the year the School Nurses paid 394 visits to schools in this connection, the actual number of children examined being 17,165. Of this number 246 were unsatisfactory, 241 of these were cleansed satisfactorily by their parents after notice was given, and in 5 cases it was found necessary that the cleansing should be done by the Authority at the cleansing station.

No legal proceedings were taken against parents under the Education Act, 1921, Section 47.

(b) Tuberculosis.

Thirteen children have been referred by the School Medical Inspector to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for prolonged observation by the Tuberculosis Officer, and of these 6 were found to be tubercular and 2 were still under the observation at the end of the year, and 5 were non-tubercular.

RINGWORM.

134 cases have been treated at the School Clinic during the year, 57 being ringworm of the scalp and 77 ringworm affecting other parts of the body, and the number of visits paid to the Clinic for the treatment of this disease was 1,782. 111 were cured, and 23 still remained under treatment at the end of the year.

IMPETIGO.

198 cases of this disease were treated at the Clinic, making 1,396 attendances, and all were cured.

SCABIES.

4 families affected. 6 cases treated at Clinic, and 6 cases treated privately.

VISION.

Arrangements with the West of England Eye Infirmary still continue. See Table IV., Group II. Two cases have been operated upon, one Iridectomy and one for Squint, also 20 cases for special out-patient treatment for eye diseases at the Eye Infirmary.

TONSILS and ADENOIDS.

60 children received operative treatment under the arrangements made by the Local Education Authority.

See Table IV., Group III.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The Report of the School Dentist on this work is attached. See Table IV., Group IV.

MINOR AILMENTS.

Treatment for these are given at the School Clinic, particulars appear on page 18—Table IV., Group I.

SWIMMING INSTRUCTION.

The arrangements whereby Elementary School Children are regularly taught swimming at the Corporation Baths continue, and during the year 555 scholars qualified for certificates as compared with 249 last year. The total number of scholars on the swimming register during the season was 1,176.

Medical inspection of those wishing to compete in the Annual Swimming Gala, 246 examined, and in 6 of these cases competition was not advised.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS.

Under the Bye-laws in force 147 medical certificates were issued and 60 children were re-examined for continuation of employment, and in no case was it found that the children's employment was detrimental to health or education.

SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARS, AND STUDENT TEACHERS.

67 were examined and passed, subject in 8 cases to having defects remedied.

CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS AND OTHERS.

69 per cent. of the parents were present in the schools at the examination, and, generally speaking, these parents showed every desire to co-operate with the school staff for the benefit of their children.

I acknowledge with gratitude the assistance given me by the Secretary for Education, Head Teachers, School Attendance Officers, and various voluntary agencies, both for help in facilitating the work of inspection and in obtaining treatment for ailing children. In the matter of obtaining treatment, Inspector Hart, of the N.S.P.C.C., has been most helpful.

Statistics relating to the work of medical inspection, as required by the Board of Education, are attached to the Report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. H. STIRK,

School Medical Officer.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS,
1926.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, 1926.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspections 1st January to 31st December, 1926.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections.

Entrants	....	....	....	1213
Intermediates	....	....	....	255
Leavers	....	....	....	703
Total	....	....	....	2171

Number of other Routine Inspections 23

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	....	....	2320
Number of Re-inspections	....	....	2680
Total	....	....	5000

TABLE II.

A. Return of Defects found by Medical Inspection in the Year ended 31st December, 1926.

Defect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Malnutrition</i>		18		2
<i>Uncleanliness—</i>				
Head		1		
Body				
<i>Skin—</i>				
Ringworm—Head	3		58	
Body	1		86	
Seabies			12	
Impetigo	4		202	
Other Diseases (Non-Tubercular)	4		47	
<i>Eye—</i>				
Blepharitis	1	1	11	1
Conjunctivitis	1		7	2
Keratitis	2			
Corneal Ulcer	2			
Corneal Opacities	1			
Defective Vision	99	7	266	23
Squint	16	5	18	4
Other Conditions		3	5	11
<i>Ear—</i>				
Defective Hearing	4	14	10	12
Otitis Media			5	1
Other Ear Diseases	15	3	53	
<i>Nose and Throat—</i>				
Enlarged Tonsils	15	4	14	
Adenoids	8	14	9	1
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	47	1	65	9
Other Conditions	1	166	16	16
<i>Enlarged Cervical Glands</i> (Non-Tubercular)	2	40	4	8
<i>Defective Speech</i>		16		
<i>Teeth—Dental Diseases</i>		178		221

TABLE II.—continued.

Detect or Disease.	Routine Inspections.		Special Inspections.	
	No of Defects.		No of Defects.	
	Requiring treatment. (2)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment. (3)	Requiring treatment. (4)	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment. (5)
<i>Heart and Circulation—</i>				
Heart Disease—Organic		5	1	10
Functional		5		1
Anaemia		1		
<i>Lungs—</i>				
Bronchitis		5	1	
Other Non-Tubercular Diseases—		5	1	9
<i>Tuberculosis—</i>				
Pulmonary—Definite		3		2
Suspected		6	3	8
Non-Pulmonary—Glands				
Spine				
Hip				
Other Bones & Joints ..				
Skin				
Other Forms				
<i>Nervous System—</i>				
Epilepsy			6	1
Chorea	1		4	4
Other Conditions		2		1
<i>Deformities—</i>				
Rickets	1	4		
Spinal Curvature		7		
Other Forms	1	12	2	1
<i>Other Defects and Diseases—</i> ...	20	38	44	42

B. Number of *individual children* found at *Routine Medical Inspection* to Require Treatment (excluding uncleanliness and Dental Diseases.

Group. (1)	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require treatment. (4)
	Inspected (2)	Found to re- quire treatment. (3)	
<i>Code Group :</i>			
Entrants	1213	100	8.2
Intermediate	255	44	17.2
Leavers	703	89	12.6
Total (code groups)	2171	233	10.7
Other Routine Inspections	23	2	8.6

Classification of Diseases other than those classified in Table IV.
Group I. showing how treated.

Disease, &c.	Cured Dispensary.	Operation Hospital.	Cured Hospital.	Cured Private Doctor.	Remarks.
Fits and Petit Mal.	5		1	1	
Hernia		4			
Chorea	2		3	2	
Debility	4			9	
Goitre			1		
Glands } Non-		1		4	
Lungs } Tubercular	2			4	
Malnutrition	2			4	
Phimosis	1		4	1	

Table III.—Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Blind (including partially blind)	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	2	4	6
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially blind.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Blind Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution			
Deaf (including deaf and dumb and partially deaf).	(i) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the totally deaf or deaf and dumb.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	2	3	5
	(ii) Suitable for training in a School or Class for the partially deaf.	Attending Certified Schools or Classes for the Deaf Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution			
Mentally Defective.	Feebleminded (cases not notifiable to the Local Control Authority).	Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children Attending Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	10 6 1 4	11 5 5	21 11 1 9
	Notified to the Local Control Authority during the year.	Feebleminded Imbeciles Idiots	1	1 1	2 1
Epileptics.	Suffering from severe epilepsy.	Attending Certified Special Schools for Epileptics In Institutions other than Certified Special Schools Attending Public Elementary Schools At no School or Institution		3	3

TABLE III.—continued.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Epileptics. —contd.	Suffering from epilepsy which is not severe.	Attending Public Elementary Schools At no School or Institution	2	2	4
Physically Defective.	Infectious pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board At other Institutions At no School or Institution Under private doctor	1		1
	Non-infectious but active pulmonary and glandular tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Sanatorium Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board At Certified Residential Open Air Schools At Certified Day Open Air Schools At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	11 2	11	22 2
	Delicate Children (e.g., pre- or latent tuberculosis, malnutrition, debility, anaemia, etc.)	At Certified Residential Open Air Schools At Certified Day Open Air Schools At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	65 2	54 3	119 5
	Active non-pulmonary tuberculosis.	At Sanatoria or Hospital Schools approved by the Ministry of Health or the Board At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	2		2
	Crippled Children (other than those with active tuberculosis disease), e.g., children suffering from paralysis, etc., and including those with severe heart disease.	At Certified Hospital Schools At Certified Residential Cripple Schools At Certified Day Cripple Schools At Public Elementary Schools At other Institutions At no School or Institution	28	16	44

**TABLE IV.—Return of Defects Treated during the Year ended
31st December, 1926.
Treatment Table.**

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Group V.)

Disease or Defect. (1)	Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year.		
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Otherwise. (3)	Total. (4)
<i>Skin—</i>			
Ringworm Scalp	57	4	61
Ringworm Body	77	10	87
Scabies	6	6	12
Impetigo	198	8	206
Other Skin Disease	30	21	51
<i>Minor Eye Defects—</i> (External and other, but excluding cases failing in Group II.)	30	7	37
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	20	40	60
<i>Miscellaneous</i> (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	26	27	53
Total	444	123	567

*Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Minor Eye Defects treated
as Minor Ailments—Group I.)*

Defect or Disease. (1)	Number of Defects dealt with.			
	Under the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Submitted to refraction by private prac- titioner or at hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (3)	Otherwise. (4)	Total. (5)
Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	265	7	29	301
Other Defects or Disease of the Eyes	22			22
Total	287	7	29	323

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme

(b) Otherwise

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme

(b) Otherwise

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Number of Defects.

Received Operative Treatment.			Received other forms of Treatment at School.	Total number Treated.
Under the Authority's Scheme in Clinic or Hospital. (1)	By Private Practitioner or Hospital, apart from the Authority's Scheme. (2)	Total (3)		
60	37	97	224	321

Group IV.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of children who were :

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

	5	786	
	6	634	
	7	574	
	8	567	
	9	498	
Routine Age Group	10	214	3666*
	11	173	
	12	111	
	13	83	
	14	26	
Specials	....	....	440
Total	....	....	4106

*Of this number approximately 1368 are re-inspections.

(b) Found to require treatment 1617

(c) Actually treated 1225

(d) Re-treated during the year as the result of periodical examination 306

(see note e)

(2) Half-days devoted to { Inspection 71 } Total 412
 { Treatment 341 }

(3) Attendance made by children for Treatment 2695

(4) Fillings { Permanent Teeth 688 } Total 1163
 { Temporary teeth 475 }

(5) Extractions { Permanent teeth 203 } Total 861
 { Temporary teeth 658 }

(6) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions 141

(7) Other operations { Permanent teeth 654 } Total 1730
 { Temporary teeth 1076 }

(e) All cases entered under this head are also entered under head (c).

Group V.—Uncleanliness and verminous condition.

(i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses 10

(ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses 17168

(iii) Number of individual children found unclean 246

(iv.) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority 5

(v.) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :

(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 Nil

(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws Nil

TABLE V.
TABLE OF PHYSICAL DEFECTS FOUND AMONG 786 BACKWARD CHILDREN.

Medical Examination showed that 528 or 67.1 per cent of these Children had some physical defect, probably accounting for their backwardness, the backwardness of the remainder being due to irregular attendance.

Defects.	Boys.	Girls.	Infants.		Total.	Percentages.
			Boys.	Girls.		
Nutrition	1	3			4	0.5
Teeth	12	9	1	2	24	3.05
Nose and Throat — Mouth Breathing	9	9			18	2.2
Tonsils } —						
Adenoids } —	32	35	3	3	73	9.2
Glands						
Eyes and Vision	5	17			24	3.05
Ears and Hearing	51	54	3	2	111	14.1
Speech	38	55	2	3	100	12.7
Heart and Circulation	14	3	2	5	20	2.5
Lungs	10	16	1	1	29	3.6
Nervous System	2	4	3	2	9	1.1
Tuberculosis	9	8	3		20	2.5
Rickets	2	4			6	0.7
Deformities, Spinal Diseases, etc.	6	3	1	2	12	1.5
Infectious or Contagious Diseases	12	30	2		44	5.5
Other Disease or Defect	16	4	3		4	0.5
		11			30	3.8
Total	219	265	24	20	528	67.1

TABLE VI.—Table Showing number of Children who attended the Inspection Clinic for Examination.

In 1911	612 Children
„ 1912	923 „
„ 1913	1240 „
„ 1914	1477 „
„ 1915	1926 „
„ 1916	2331 „
„ 1917	2256 „
„ 1918	1691 „
„ 1919	2323 „
„ 1920	3811 „
„ 1921	3502 „
„ 1922	2174 „
„ 1923	2346 „
„ 1924	1993 „
„ 1925	1832 „
„ 1926	2061 „

They were sent by the following :—

Head Teacher	928
School Medical Officer	125
School Nurse	443
Medical Practitioners	18
Parents' own initiative	412
Attendance Officers	124
Private Individuals	11
Total	2061

Condition requiring Examination.

Uncleanliness	Dental Diseases
Ringworm	Heart and Circulation
Impetigo	Lung (Non-Tubercular)
Ear Disease	Nervous System
Defective Vision	Deformities
Nose and Throat	Other Defects and Diseases
Glands	Certificates of Fitness to
Defective Speech	attend School, Trading
	Certificates, &c.

Secondary Schools and Junior Technical School. 1926.

TABLE I.

Return of Medical Inspection 1st January to 31st December, 1926.

INSPECTED :—

School.	Examination.		Total.
	Complete.	Curtailed.	
Junior Technical(Boys)	41	4	45
Hele's (Boys)	166	132	298
Exeter (Boys)	102	77	179
Total	309	213	522

TABLE II.

A. RETURN OF DEFECTS found in the course of Medical Inspection, 1926.

School.	Defect or Disease.	EXAMINATIONS.			
		Complete.		Curtailed.	
		No. of Defects.		No. of Defects.	
		Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.	Requiring treatment.	Requiring to be kept under observation, but <i>not</i> requiring treatment.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Junior Technical (Boys.)	Slight Tonsils		1		
	Spinal Curvature		1		
Hele's (Boys.)	Vision	8		10	
	Teeth	1		3	
	Tonsils	1	8		4
	Slight Cervical Glands		1		
	Defective Speech		1		2
	Heart Disease		1		
	Other Defects.	1	10		2
Exeter (Boys.)	Slight Tonsils		1		
	Squint		1		
	Vision	10		6	
	Defective Hearing	2		1	
	Slight Cervical Glands			2	
	Other Defects	1	5		

TABLE II.—continued.

B. Number of *individual children* found at *Routine Medical Inspection* to require treatment (excluding uncleanness and Dental Diseases).

School.	Group.	Number of Children.		Percentage of Children found to require treatment.
		Inspected.	Found to require treatment.	
Junior Technical (Boys.)	Complete Examination	41	—	—
	Curtailed Examination	4	—	—
	Total	45	—	—
Hclc's (Boys.)	Complete Examination	166	10	6.
	Curtailed Examination	132	10	7.5
	Total	298	20	6.7
Exeter (Boys')	Complete Examination	102	13	12.7
	Curtailed Examination	77	6	7.7
	Total	179	19	10.6

TABLE III.

Numerical Return of all Exceptional Children in the Area in 1926.

Nil.

TABLE IV.

GROUP I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments, 1926.

No arrangements are made by the Local Education Authority for treatment.

GROUP II.—Defective Vision and Squint.

School.	Defect or Disease.	Number of Defects dealt with.		
		Submitted to re- fraction by private prac- titioner or at Hospital.	Other- wise.	Total.
Junior Technical (Boys.)	Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	—	—	—
	Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	—	—	—
	Total	—	—	—

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed and received spectacles—*Nil*.

Hele's (Boys.)	Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	2	11	13
	Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	—	—	—
	Total	2	11	13

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed and received spectacles, 3.

Exeter (Boys.)	Errors of Refraction (in- cluding Squint)	1	11	12
	Other Defect or Disease of the Eye	—	—	—
	Total	1	11	12

Total number of Children for whom spectacles were prescribed and received spectacles, 12.

GROUPS III., IV., and V.—*Nil*.